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WEST GERMANY: Last-minute Soviet objections to parts of the draft Bundestag resolution have derailed plans to bring the Eastern treaties to a vote today.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry on 9 May indicated that it could not accept the wording that the treaties are only a modus vivendi and do not create a legal basis for existing borders. The Soviets also demanded that another passage, dealing with residual Four Power rights in Germany as a whole, be deleted as being repetitive. Later in the day, Soviet Ambassador Falin indicated that the Soviet position might be negotiable.

Word of the Soviet rejection reached opposition leader Barzel as he was attempting to persuade his party's Bundestag deputies to support the resolution as worked out that morning with the apparent approval of Falin. The Soviet position places Barzel, who is already faced with growing dissension within his party, in an even more difficult position. The first Soviet objection seemingly confirms the darkest fears of many Christian Democrats that the Soviets, in fact, interpret their treaty with West Germany as a definitive peace settlement.

Barzel demanded that the treaty debate, already rescheduled twice, be postponed again from 10 May to an indefinite date. He threatened to oppose ratification if Brandt attempted to force the treaties to a vote today. Although Barzel is publicly playing down the seriousness of the Soviet objections, he said that his colleagues need more time in which to reach a sensible decision.

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